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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/772,619	01/30/2001	Steven J. Alt	1-36021	3016

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EXAMINER

BALSIS, SHAY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1744

DATE MAILED: 06/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/772,619

Applicant(s)

ALT, STEVEN J.

Examiner

Shay L Balsis

Art Unit

1744

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 January 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>4</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 14, 16 and 22. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the jaws with apertures as in claim 2 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 10, line 4 states, "Fig. 13" however, it should read –Fig. 12–.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 11, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claims 11, 12 and 14 fail to teach what the limitations are to read on, the bucket or the wringer. In claim 11, is the bucket supposed to have a handle attached to a rear wall or is the wringer? In claim 12, does the front wall of the bucket or the wringer have a curved portion? In claim 14, does the wringer or the bucket have a stepped bottom wall?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-8, 11, 14 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Elkington (USPN 2337319).

Elkington teaches a mop bucket and wringer apparatus for wringing liquid from a mop (col. 1, lines 6-22). The wringer (12) has an upwardly opening for receiving a mop and is defined by front (13), rear (14) and side (16) walls (col. 3, lines 46-51). There are passageways that are on some of the walls to allow liquid to pass through. There is a rack (33) which pressure jaws (28) are mounted to. The rack keeps the pressure jaws in a spaced apart horizontal

Art Unit: 1744

disposition whereby vertical movement of the rack causes the pressure jaws toward and away from each other. At least one of the side walls is provided with slots (21) for vertically guiding the rack. A pinion (36) is affixed to a side wall of the wringer for effecting movement of the rack and the associated pressure jaws. An elongate elastomeric spring means (48) is attached to the at least one of the side walls and the pinion urging the pinion in a position to cause the pressure jaws to be moved away from each other. The rear wall of the wringer has a handle (25) attached thereto to which movement of the handle starting the wringing process. The bottom wall of the wringer is of the stepped configuration (figure 2). When the wringer is placed on three sides of the bucket a seal is formed preventing any leaking of liquid.

8. Claims 1-8, 11, 12 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kamada (USPN 5720073).

Kamada teaches a mop bucket (80) and wringer apparatus (10) for wringing liquid from a mop. The wringer has an upwardly opening for receiving a mop and is defined by front, rear and side (50a, 50b) walls. There are passageways that are on some of the walls to allow liquid to pass through (figure 9). There is a rack (30) which pressure jaws (40) are mounted to. The rack keeps the pressure jaws in a spaced apart horizontal disposition whereby vertical movement of the rack causes the pressure jaws toward and away from each other. At least one of the side walls is provided with slots (56a, 56b) for vertically guiding the rack. A pinion (20) is affixed to a side wall of the wringer for effecting movement of the rack and the associated pressure jaws. An elongate elastomeric spring means (76) is attached to the at least one of the side walls and the pinion urging the pinion in a position to cause the pressure jaws to be moved away from each other. The rear wall of the wringer has a handle (14) attached thereto to which movement of the

Art Unit: 1744

handle starting the wringing process. The front wall of the bucket has a curved portion allowing for easy pouring. When the wringer is placed on three sides of the bucket a seal is formed preventing any leaking of liquid.

9. Claims 1-8, 11, 14 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bard (USPN 2199906).

Bard teaches a mop bucket and wringer apparatus for wringing liquid from a mop (col. 3, lines 12-17). The wringer has an upwardly opening for receiving a mop and is defined by front, rear and side walls (figure 1). There are passageways that are on some of the walls to allow liquid to pass through (figure 1). There is a rack (19) which pressure jaws (16) are mounted to. The rack keeps the pressure jaws in a spaced apart horizontal disposition whereby vertical movement of the rack causes the pressure jaws toward and away from each other. At least one of the side walls is provided with slots (14) for vertically guiding the rack. A pinion (24) is affixed to a side wall of the wringer for effecting movement of the rack and the associated pressure jaws. An elongate elastomeric spring means (26) is attached to the at least one of the side walls and the pinion urging the pinion in a position to cause the pressure jaws to be moved away from each other. The rear wall of the wringer has a handle (25) attached thereto to which movement of the handle starting the wringing process. The bottom wall of the wringer is of the stepped configuration (figure 1, element 11). When the wringer is placed on three sides of the bucket a seal is formed preventing any leaking of liquid.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor (USPN 5333353) in view of Elkington (USPN 2337319).

Taylor teaches a mop wringer and bucket device, wherein the bucket is provided with slots (82) for guiding the vertical movement of the wringer with respect to the mop bucket. The wringer has downwardly extending extensions (80) that are to be received within the slots. The bucket also includes a handle (figure 12) and a curved portion (76) forming a pouring spout. The handle may be used to attach the device to a toilet or a sink basin. The bucket also includes a stepped bottom wall (66) and side walls with corners (figure 12). The wringer sits on three sides of the bucket thus forming a seal to prevent any liquid from leaking. Taylor teaches all the essential elements of the claimed invention however, Taylor fails to teach the specifics of the wringer. After examining Taylor's figures closely it can be seen that the wringer used comprises pressure jaws and vertical slots to guide the pressure jaws (figure 10). Elkington teaches a wringing device comprising an upwardly opening for receiving a mop and is defined by front (13), rear (14) and side (16) walls (col. 3, lines 46-51). There are passageways that are on some of the walls to allow liquid to pass through. There is a rack (33) which pressure jaws (28) are mounted to. The rack keeps the pressure jaws in a spaced apart horizontal disposition whereby vertical movement of the rack causes the pressure jaws toward and away from each other. At

Art Unit: 1744

least one of the side walls is provided with slots (21) for vertically guiding the rack. A pinion (36) is affixed to a side wall of the wringer for effecting movement of the rack and the associated pressure jaws. An elongate elastomeric spring means (48) is attached to the at least one of the side walls and the pinion urging the pinion in a position to cause the pressure jaws to be moved away from each other. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the wringer as taught by Elkington in place of the wringer disclosed in Taylor, since it appears from the figures that the Taylor's wringer functions and is configured in essentially the same manner as Elkington's. Additionally, Elkington's wringer imposes less strain on the user on the mechanism.

12. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor (USPN 5333353) in view of Kamada (USPN 5720073).

Taylor teaches a mop wringer and bucket device, wherein the bucket is provided with slots (82) for guiding the vertical movement of the wringer with respect to the mop bucket. The wringer has downwardly extending extensions (80) that are to be received within the slots. The bucket also includes a handle (figure 12) and a curved portion (76) forming a pouring spout. The handle may be used to attach the device to a toilet or a sink basin. The bucket also includes a stepped bottom wall (66) and side walls with corners (figure 12). The wringer sits on three sides of the bucket thus forming a seal to prevent any liquid from leaking. Taylor teaches all the essential elements of the claimed invention however, Taylor fails to teach the specifics of the wringer. After examining Taylor's figures closely it can be seen that the wringer used comprises pressure jaws and vertical slots to guide the pressure jaws (figure 10). Kamada teaches a wringer having an upwardly opening for receiving a mop and is defined by front, rear and side (50a, 50b)

Art Unit: 1744

walls. There are passageways that are on some of the walls to allow liquid to pass through (figure 9). There is a rack (30) which pressure jaws (40) are mounted to. The rack keeps the pressure jaws in a spaced apart horizontal disposition whereby vertical movement of the rack causes the pressure jaws toward and away from each other. At least one of the side walls is provided with slots (56a, 56b) for vertically guiding the rack. A pinion (20) is affixed to a side wall of the wringer for effecting movement of the rack and the associated pressure jaws. An elongate elastomeric spring means (76) is attached to the at least one of the side walls and the pinion urging the pinion in a position to cause the pressure jaws to be moved away from each other. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the wringer as taught by Kamada in place of the wringer disclosed in Taylor, since it appears from the figures that the Taylor's wringer functions and is configured in essentially the same manner as Kamada's. Additionally, Kamada's wringer has an increased force from the pressure jaws to thoroughly squeeze liquid from the mop head.

13. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor (USPN 5333353) in view of Bard (USPN 2199906).

Taylor teaches a mop wringer and bucket device, wherein the bucket is provided with slots (82) for guiding the vertical movement of the wringer with respect to the mop bucket. The wringer has downwardly extending extensions (80) that are to be received within the slots. The bucket also includes a handle (figure 12) and a curved portion (76) forming a pouring spout. The handle may be used to attach the device to a toilet or a sink basin. The bucket also includes a stepped bottom wall (66) and side walls with corners (figure 12). The wringer sits on three sides of the bucket thus forming a seal to prevent any liquid from leaking. Taylor teaches all the

Art Unit: 1744

essential elements of the claimed invention however, Taylor fails to teach the specifics of the wringer. After examining Taylor's figures closely it can be seen that the wringer used comprises pressure jaws and vertical slots to guide the pressure jaws (figure 10). Bard teaches a wringer having an upwardly opening for receiving a mop and is defined by front, rear and side walls (figure 1). There are passageways that are on some of the walls to allow liquid to pass through (figure 1). There is a rack (19) which pressure jaws (16) are mounted to. The rack keeps the pressure jaws in a spaced apart horizontal disposition whereby vertical movement of the rack causes the pressure jaws toward and away from each other. At least one of the side walls is provided with slots (14) for vertically guiding the rack. A pinion (24) is affixed to a side wall of the wringer for effecting movement of the rack and the associated pressure jaws. An elongate elastomeric spring means (26) is attached to the at least one of the side walls and the pinion urging the pinion in a position to cause the pressure jaws to be moved away from each other. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the wringer as taught by Bard in place of the wringer disclosed in Taylor, since it appears from the figures that the Taylor's wringer functions and is configured in essentially the same manner as Bard's. Additionally, Bard's wringer ensures that the pressure jaws will remain in alignment and will act in a continuously smooth manner.

Conclusion

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shay L Balsis whose telephone number is 703-305-7275. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00 M-Th, alternating F.

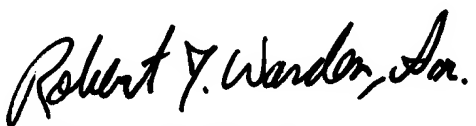
Art Unit: 1744

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Warden can be reached on 703-308-2920. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5665.

slb

June 19, 2003


ROBERT J. WARDEN, SR.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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